



PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Serial No.: 10/674,198)
Filed: September 29, 2003)
For: CAGE NUT ASSEMBLY)
HAVING A FLEXIBLE CAGE)
Applicant: Clinch et al.)
Examiner: Neill R. Wilson)
Art Unit: 3677)
Attorney Ref: 140/40652/975)

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 25, 2004.

Tiffany E. Sexton
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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Mail Stop DD
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with Applicant's duty of candor under 37 CFR §1.56 and in compliance with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98, Applicant is not aware of any material prior art but, in an abundance of caution and candor, Applicant submits the present Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement and Form PTO-1449. A copy of the listed references are included herewith.

Applicant has disclosed Japanese Patent No. JP 08114213A. Japanese Patent No. JP 08114213A is not in the English language. As such, Applicant states that Japanese Patent No. JP 08114213A discloses a screw component which joins a first member (4) to a second member (5) with a bolt (1) and a nut (2). The bolt head has a wedge shaped protrusion (3a). The base of the nut has a wedge shaped projection (3b).

Applicant has also disclosed United States Patent Application Publication No. US 2003/0147715 A1 and United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0136617 A1. While Applicant is disclosing these United States Patent Application Publications to the United States Patent and Trademark Office in accordance with Applicant's duty of disclosure, Applicant reserves the right to possibly challenge the Examiner's use of these United States Patent Application Publications as prior art should the Examiner reject some or all of the claims of this application

under 35 U.S.C. §§102 and/or 103, with the rejections being based, in whole or in part, upon these United States Patent Application Publications.

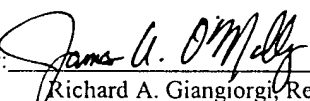
This Supplemental Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing of a first Office Action, but before the mailing date of any of a final action, a notice of allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application. Therefore, Applicant states that no item of information contained herein was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and after making a reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained herein was known to any individual designated in 37 CFR 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of this information disclosure statement. Applicant states that the disclosed references were first learned of in connection with an Office Action which issued in a separate United States patent application related to a cage nut assembly which is owned by the assignee of the present application. This Information Disclosure Statement constitutes a bona fide attempt to comply with 37 CFR §1.97 and §1.98.

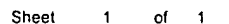
In accordance with 37 CFR §1.97, the presentation of this information shall not be construed as a representation that a search has been made or that no other material information as defined in 37 CFR §1.56 exists, or as an admission that the information cited in this statement is, or is considered to be, material to patentability as defined in 37 CFR §1.56.

Should the Examiner believe a fee is required, the United States Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized and requested to charge the fee to the deposit account of the undersigned firm, Account No. 20-1495.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: June 25, 2004

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APPLICANT: Clinch et al.

FILING DATE: September 29, 2003

GROUP 3677

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, etc.)

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

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